

Revised August 25, 2021

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

{PLAINTIFF},  
Teachers Insurance  
and Annuity Association of America  
-v-  
{DEFENDANT},  
MetLife Insurance Company  
Defendant(s).

1:21-cv-03712  
CIVIL ACTION NO.: ~~Civ. 1:21-cv-03712~~ (SLC)

**REPORT OF RULE 26(f) CONFERENCE AND  
PROPOSED CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

In accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) and Judge Cave's Individual Practices, the parties met on April 22, 2022 (at least one week before the Initial Case Management Conference) and exchanged communications thereafter. The parties now submit the following report for the Court's consideration:

1. **Court Expectations:**

**Rule 1 and Rule 26(b)(1).** Counsel are expected to have reviewed Rule 1 and Rule 26(b)(1) and considered their obligations thereunder in discussing and preparing a discovery plan.

**Additional consideration of proportionality.** Counsel shall discuss and consider whether phased or iterative discovery will increase efficiency, reduce costs and lead to a faster resolution of the case when preparing a discovery plan.

**Document Requests.** Counsel shall be fully familiar with their obligations under Rules 34 and 26(g) and consider and discuss ways to ensure compliance and minimize disputes regarding overbreadth and specificity of requests and responses.

**Competence.** Counsel shall be sufficiently knowledgeable in matters relating to their clients' technological systems to discuss competently issues relating to electronic discovery, or have involved someone competent to address these issues on their behalf.

Counsel are directed to the Model Confidentiality Stipulation and Proposed Protective Order and Stipulation and [Proposed] Order Concerning the Protocol for Conducting Remote Depositions on Judge Cave's Individual Practices Page.

Counsel represent by their signature below that they have read and will comply with the above.

2. **Summary of Claims, Defenses, and Relevant Issues:**

Plaintiff(s): Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America alleges that Defendant breached her covenant under the Voluntary Separation Agreement not to solicit co-employees

Defendant(s): Melanie Simons denies soliciting any of Plaintiff's employees in breach of her non-solicitation covenants. The non-solicitation covenants contained in TIAA's agreements are unenforceable against Ms. Simons.

3. Basis of Subject Matter Jurisdiction (and any dispute as to jurisdiction):

Diversity of citizenship, 28 U.S.C. § 1332

4. Subjects on Which Discovery May Be Needed:

Plaintiff(s): Defendant's solicitation of Plaintiff's employees

Defendant(s): The factual basis of TIAA's claims against Ms. Simons, TIAA's involuntary termination of Ms. Simons, any financial damages allegedly suffered by TIAA to support its breach of contract claim, TIAA's *won't clean hands* in bringing this lawsuit.

5. Informal Disclosures:

Plaintiff[s] <sup>will</sup> disclosed the information required by Rule 26(a)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on ~~4/12/22~~ <sup>5/31/22</sup> On 5/31/22, Plaintiff[s] [produced/will produce] an initial set of relevant documents identified in [its/their] Initial Disclosures and will continue to supplement [its/their] production.

Defendant[s] <sup>will</sup> disclosed the information required by Rule 26(a)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on ~~4/12/22~~ <sup>5/31</sup> On 5/31/22, Defendant[s] [produced/will produce] an initial set of relevant documents identified in [its/their] Initial Disclosures and will continue to supplement [its/their] production.

6. Discovery Plan:

The parties jointly propose to the Court the following discovery plan:

A. All fact discovery must be completed by 11/30/22.

Within **one week** of the close of fact discovery, that is 12/7/22, the parties must file a joint letter on the docket certifying that fact discovery is complete.

B. The parties will conduct discovery in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Local Rules of the Southern District of New York, and Judge Cave's Individual Practices. The following interim deadlines may be extended by the parties on written consent without application to the Court, **provided that** the parties meet the deadline for completing fact discovery set forth in paragraph 6(A) above.

- i. Depositions: Depositions shall be completed by 11/30/22 and limited to no more than 6 depositions per party. Absent an agreement between the parties or an order from the Court, non-party depositions shall follow initial party depositions.
- ii. Interrogatories: Initial sets of interrogatories shall be served on or before 6/30/22. All subsequent interrogatories must be served no later than 30 days before the fact discovery deadline.
- iii. Requests for Admission: Requests for admission must be served on or before 6/30/22, and in any event no later than 30 days before the fact discovery deadline.
- iv. Requests for Production: Initial requests for production were/will be exchanged on 6/30/22 and responses shall be due on 7/31/22. All subsequent requests for production must be served no later than 30 days before the discovery deadline.

- v. Supplementation: Supplementations under Rule 26(e) must be made within a reasonable period of time after discovery of such information, and in any event, no later than the fact discovery deadline.

7. Anticipated Discovery Disputes:

Describe any anticipated discovery disputes or proposed limitations on discovery.

N/A

8. Amendments to Pleadings:

- a. Does any party anticipate amending the pleadings? No
- b. Last date to amend any pleading pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a) is ~~Aug~~ July 31, 2022.  
Amendment of pleadings after this date will only be permitted upon a showing of "good cause" under Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4).

9. Expert Witness Disclosures:

- a. Does any party anticipate utilizing experts? Plaintiff may utilize an expert
- b. Expert discovery shall be completed by 11/30/22  
12/7/22

Within **one week** of the close of expert discovery, that is, 12/7/22, the parties must file a joint letter on the docket certifying that all discovery is complete. This letter should also state which dispositive motions, if any, each party intends to file.

10. Electronic Discovery and Preservation of Documents and Information:

- a. Have the parties discussed discovery of electronically stored information (ESI)?  
Yes
- b. Is there an ESI discovery protocol in place? If not, the parties expect to have one in place by 6/30/22.
- c. Are there issues the parties would like to address concerning preservation of evidence and/or ESI discovery at the Initial Case Management Conference?  
No



11. Early Settlement or Resolution:

The parties have have not (circle one) discussed the possibility of settlement. The parties request a settlement conference by no later than 9/15/22. The following information is needed before settlement can be discussed:

12. Trial:

- a. The parties anticipate that this case will be ready for trial by within 60 days of the a ruling on summary judgment
- b. The parties anticipate that the trial of this case will require 3 days.
- c. The parties do not (circle one) consent to a trial before a Magistrate Judge at this time.
- d. The parties request a bench (circle one) trial.

13. Other Matters:

*Defendant anticipates filing for summary judgment Plaintiff also may file for summary judgment on liability*

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of May, 2022

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF(S):

/s/Thomas J. Momjian (with permission)

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT(S):

/s/Kara M. Maciel (with permission)

Dated: New York, New York  
                    , 20          

SO ORDERED.

SARAH L. CAVE  
United States Magistrate Judge